REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 10-11, 13-19, 25-32, and 38-42 under 35 U.S.C.§102(e) as being anticipated by Reed et al. (U.S. Patent 6,345,288) and claims 5-9, 12, 20-24, and 33-37 under 35 U.S.C.§103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al. in view of Larsen et al. (U.S. 6,097,703) and in further view of Godoroja (U.S. 6,032,258).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. The cited references fail to teach or suggest at least the following italicized features of the independent claims:

> 1. A method for processing a message received from a computational network, comprising:
>
> *providing a messaging system in an enterprise network, the messaging system comprising a messaging server and a plurality of client communication devices corresponding to a plurality of subscribers, each subscriber having a corresponding local message repository;*
>
> *the messaging server receiving at least one network message addressed to a selected subscriber, the network message comprising a header and at least one of a body and an attachment;*
>
> *the messaging server parsing the header and the at least one of a body and an attachment to locate predetermined types of information, including an identifier associated with the selected subscriber;*
>
> *the messaging server assembling the predetermined types of information in at least one notification message, the at least one notification message having a smaller byte size than the at least one network message;* and
>
> *the messaging server forwarding the at least one notification message to the client communication device associated with the selected subscriber.*

> 17. A system for processing a message received from a computational network, comprising:
>
> *a plurality of client communication devices in an enterprise network, the client communication devices corresponding to a plurality of subscribers, each subscriber having a corresponding local message repository;* and
>
> *a messaging server serving the enterprise network* comprising:
>
> *means for receiving at least one network message, the network message comprising a header and at least one of a body and an attachment;*
>
> *means for parsing the header and the at least one of a body and an attachment to locate predetermined types of information, including at least one intended network message recipient who is a subscriber;*

means for assembling the predetermined types of information in at least one notification message, the at least one notification message having a smaller byte size than the at least one network message; and

means for forwarding the at least one notification message to the at least one intended network message recipient.

30. A system for processing a message received from a computational network, comprising:

a plurality of client communication devices in an enterprise network, the client communication devices corresponding to a plurality of subscribers, each subscriber having a corresponding local message repository; and

a messaging server serving the enterprise network and comprising:

an input port configured to receive at least one network message to a common set of recipients, the network message comprising a header and at least one of a body and an attachment;

a group assistant configured to parse the header and the at least one of a body and an attachment to locate predetermined types of information, including at least one intended network message recipient who is a subscriber; and

a message notification agent configured to assemble the predetermined types of information in at least one notification message, the at least one notification message omitting at least some of the information in the at least one network message, and to forward the at least one notification message to the at least one intended network message recipient.

In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to an assistant messaging architecture in an enterprise network. In the architecture, electronic messages are not sent directly from peer-to-peer but are sent to a group assistant with a list of recipients (who are subscribers) and attachments. The group assistant parses the messages for the list of the recipients and extracts a brief summary from the message and attachments. It uploads the attachments and message to a secure site, which is accessible only to the recipients, thereby providing controlled access to the message. The assistant notifies all the recipients of the new message, giving a brief summary of the message and the URL where the full message is located. The sender of the message can specify the age for the message. Upon reaching the age, the message expires. Thus, every message in a mailbox can have a different age rather than all messages having the same age.

Reed et al.

U.S. 6,345,288 to Reed et al., the primary reference, is directed to an automated communications system for transferring data, metadata, and methods from a provider computer to a consumer computer through a communications network. The provider is typically a business and the consumer a customer of the business. Thus, the recipients are not subscribers of the business' enterprise network. Elements in a transferred object can be used by the consumer computer to filter information and provide selective notification to a user of the changed information. Information may be transferred using a "pushing" method in which information is transferred directly to a known consumer computer using e-mail. It may also be transferred using a "pulling" method in which the consumer computer requests and initiates transfer of information directly from the provider computer or from another server computer. The provider computer transmits changes in information stored in the provider database at the provider computer. The architecture uses seven principal object classes, namely communications objects, recipients, rules, methods, pages, elements, and type definitions.

Fig. 8 illustrates the transfer of an object through e-mail using the push technique. The object is attached as a MIME object to the e-mail message. At col. 27, lines 40-65, the process is described. The e-mail is sent in the ordinary manner, using whichever e-mail servers and intermediaries are available to reach the consumer's email server. The consumer's e-mail program retrieves the message from its server in the ordinary manner. The attachment may be downloaded for storage either in an internal or external MIME directory or left for storage on the e-mail server. The consumer program then periodically polls the MIME directory or the e-mail server to locate objects of a communications object MIME type. When a communications object type is located, it is read from the storage location and processed by the consumer program.

Other media used for pushing and pulling information include the telephone, voicemail, postal mail networks, and broadcast networks (such as television or cable systems).

Various forms may be used. Create forms are used to create a new communications object class. Edit forms are used to edit attributes and associations of a class. Delete forms are used to remove class instances. Preview forms are used to display a selected class. Recipient

forms are used to assign the recipients who will receive each communications object. Reports forms are used to create, edit, delete, and display reports.

As can be seen from the above, Reed et al. is not directed to a messaging system but to an information distribution system between unrelated parties. Emails are used by the unrelated business to transmit selected information to an enterprise messaging server. It does not teach or suggest how the enterprise messaging server is configured to notify the subscriber of the email.

Moreover, Reed et al. does not teach parsing the various fields and attachments of a message and providing a summarized version of the e-mail. At col. 8, lines 51-64, Reed et al. teaches using objects conveyed by email to a customer to selectively request (or filter) further information from the business. Thus, the filtering in the Reed et al. architecture is not performed by the provider computer but by the consumer or customer's computer. In the present invention, the filtering/parsing is performed by the messaging server and not by the subscriber's computer.

Larsen et al.

The Examiner cites Larsen et al. for the use of differing message expiration times. Larsen et al. is directed to an adaptive communications system using opportunistic peak-mode transmissions to transmit data between originating and destination stations. Each station monitors the activity of other stations in the network, storing connectivity information for use in later transmissions. Each station sends out probe signals from time to time, to establish which other stations are in range. Messages are then sent across the network from station to station, with confirmation data being transmitted back to the originating station, until the destination station is reached. Old messages, which would otherwise clog the network, are timed out and deleted. The messages include time stamps, which are decremented as the packet is passed through the network at a rate which is set relative to the real time. Packets which are not successfully received by the intended destination station within a predetermined time-out period are deleted, preventing clogging of the network.

The dependent claims provide further reasons for allowance.

By way of example, dependent claim 2 teaches storing network messages in a central message store remote from the client communication devices. *See also* dependent claims 18 and 31.

Dependent claim 3 is directed to the messaging server determining a value of a flag in the network message (the flag value being set by the sender) and, when the state has a predetermined value, the messaging server resending the notification message after a predetermined time interval has elapsed. *See also* dependent claims 19 and 32.

Dependent claims 5-6 and 8-9 are directed to the use of different message expiration times, with the expiration times being sender specified. *See also* dependent claims 20-21, 23-24, 33-34, and 36-37. The Examiner cites Larsen et al. and Godoroja et al. in rejecting the claims. Larsen et al. fails to teach sender-specified expiration times let alone the use of differing expiration times. Each packet in Larsen et al. is given the same expiration time, which is decremented as the packet is passed through the network. Godoroja et al. is directed to a method for validating a message packet communicated from a source node to a destination node in a network. "A portion of the packet header is reserved for storing a time reference indicative of the time at which the particular packet originated." (Col. 2, lines 9-11, and col. 3, lines 42-45.) The time reference is used to compute the security key. In contrast, the message packets of the present invention include a sender-specified expiration time, which is different from the time of origination of the packet.

Dependent claim 10 is directed to selecting a presentation parameter for the at least one network message based on the communication device type, whereby a first type of communication device displays first information about the at least one network message and a second type of communication device displays second information about the at least one network message. *See also* dependent claims 25 and 38.

Dependent claim 13 is requires the notification message to include a source address of the network message, a destination address of the network message, a number of intended recipients of the network message, a subject of the network message, a priority of the network message, a timestamp associated with the network message, and a summary of the body of the network message. *See also* 27 and 40.

Applicant wishes to clarify the intended meaning of certain claim language in light of the Federal Circuit decision "SuperGuide Corporation v. DirecTV Enterprises, Inc., et al., 358 F.3d 870 (Fed. Cir. 2004). In that decision, the Federal Circuit held, under the unique facts of that

case, that the phrase "at least one of a desired program start time, a desired program end time, a desired program service, and a desired program type" means "at least one of a desired program start time, at least one of a desired program end time, at least one of a desired program service, and at least one of a desired program type".

Applicant has used the phrase "at least one of . . . and" in a number of claims and wishes to clarify to the Examiner the proper construction of this phrase. Applicant intended the phrase "at least one . . and" as used in the claims to be an open-ended expression that is both conjunctive and disjunctive in operation. For example, the expressions "at least one of A, B and C" means A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and A, B and C together. Applicant believes that this construction is consistent with the Examiner's construction of the claims in the Office Action. If the Examiner disagrees with this construction, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner notify Applicant accordingly so that Applicant can further amend the claims.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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